



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Nogales Agents Receive Highest Award From INS Commissioner

**TUCSON, Ariz.** —Border Patrol Agents Robert M. Lawler and Jered Bacon have been recognized for saving the lives of 22 residents from a burning apartment complex in Nogales, Ariz. The blaze, which occurred in August of 2001, led Agents Lawler and Bacon to risk their lives as they evacuated the occupants of the blazing building. At the time of the building fire, most occupants were asleep in their beds. By the time local fire and police arrived on scene, the two agents had succeeded in assisting all 22 occupants before the building became totally engulfed by flames.



In a story done in a local newspaper, the Nogales International, the agents were credited for “swift actions to save the lives of the 22 residents.” Nogales Fire Chief Dennis Van Auken called the agents “heroes”.

The Commissioner’s Newton-Azrak Award was named to posthumously honor Theodore Newton and George Azrak, two Border Patrol Agents who were violently killed in 1967 while in the performance of their job. The award honors all INS officers killed in the line of duty as well as presented to agents for extraordinary contributions, service or accomplishments reflecting unusual courage or bravery in the line of duty; and/or an extraordinarily heroic or humane act committed during times of extreme stress or in an emergency. There have been nine other Tucson Sector Border Patrol Agents given this award including Alexander Kirpnick who was murdered in the line of duty near Nogales in June of 1998.

With Chief Patrol Agent David V. Aguilar proudly looking on, Agents Lawler and Bacon were presented their award during a formal award ceremony held in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2002. The Newton-Azrak Award was presented to the agents by INS Commissioner James Ziglar.

~ USBP ~

#### PHOTO IDENTIFICATION:

(from left to right) The current Patrol Agent in Charge of the Nogales Station Joseph Gleason, Newton-Azrak Award Recipient Senior Patrol Agent Jered Bacon, Newton-Azrak Award Recipient Robert M. Lawler, Tucson Sector Chief Patrol Agent David V. Aguilar, and Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Kevin Stevens (former Patrol Agent in Charge of the Nogales Station).